

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2397

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3507

E.O. 11562: GDS

TAGS SNAR CO

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENTS FOR DEA AGENTS GERHART AND BOLDIN

EMBS FOR DEA

REF: DEA 2890, BOGOTA 911

1. DEA REFTEL STATE ETA BOGOTA FOR REPLACEMENT AGENTS BROWN AND MATTHEWS EXPECTED TO BE BETWEEN JUNE 15 AND JULY 1, 1974. THIS INFORMATION IS HELPFUL BUT STILL PRESENTS SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR MAINTAINING ANY TYPE OF CONTINUITY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN BOGOTA DISTRICT OFFICE OF DEA. SAIC GONZALEZ PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO ATTEND DEA SUPERVISORS COURSE IN WASHINGTON FROM JUNE 13 TO 28 AND BEGIN HOME LEAVE FOR TWO MONTHS ON OR ABOUT JULY 1. THIS WOULD LEAVE SPECIAL AGENT DUNCAN ALONE TO COVER A FOUR MAN OFFICE FOR UNDETERMINED PERIOD IN JUNE AND PLACE FULL BURDEN OF ORIENTATION ETC OF NEW SA'S ON HIM WHILE TRYING TO CARRY OUT RESPONSIBILITIES OF BDO AT THE SAME TIME.

2. THE EMBASSY IS OF THE OPINION THAT PROPOSED DEA STAFFING PLANS FOR COMING FOUR MONTHS (ADDED TO THE PAST SIX WEEKS WITH ONLY TWO AGENTS) WOULD RESULT IN SERIOUS DETRIMENT TO THE NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN IN GENERAL AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BDO OF DEA IN PARTICULAR.

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3. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT, IN AN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE CAUSED BY DEA REPLACEMENT TIMINGS DISCUSS WITH DEA THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS: 1) INSURE ARRIVAL OF TWO REPLACEMENTS BY JULY 1 AND EARLIER IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, 2) ALLOW SAIC GONZALEZ TO ATTEND JUNE 13-28 COURSE ONLY IF DEA CAN PROVIDE QUALIFIED TDY REPLACEMENT DURING THIS PERIOD 3) HAVE GONZALEZ RETURN TO BOGOTA ON JULY 1 FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS TO INSURE PROPER ORIENTATION OF REPLACEMENT AGENTS, 4) HAVE GONZALEZ POSTPONE HOME LEAVE UNTIL APPROXIMATELY JULY 20.

4. THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GONZALEZ AND, WHILE THEY WILL CAUSE PERSONAL INCONVENIENCE AND REDUCTION OF HIS HOME LEAVE, HE CONCURS THAT SUCH ACTION IS REQUIRED DURING DIFFICULT TRANSITION PERIOD.
VAKY

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